Who keeps on cruising? Changes in lifestyle and driving style over a 5-year period among young male drivers

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Who keeps on cruising?

Changes in lifestyle and driving style over a 5-year period among young male drivers

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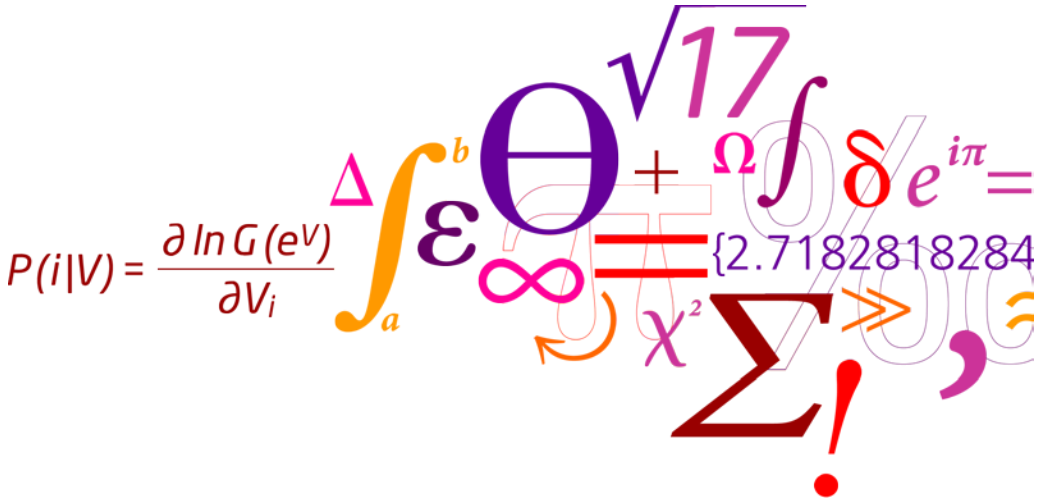


DTU Transport
Institut for Transport

Why look at cruising?

Cruising = ‘driving around with friends just for the fun of it’

– Despite overall improvements in road safety levels in recent years:

  Young drivers (esp. male) still overrepresented in accident statistics

– Key reasons: Lack of experience

– But: Gender differences point to additional reasons

Additional reasons

- Motivational and attitudinal factors
- Vulnerability to social influences from peers
- Lifestyle factors:
  - Relationship between leisure activities, driving style and problem behaviour (Møller & Sigurðardóttir, 2009)

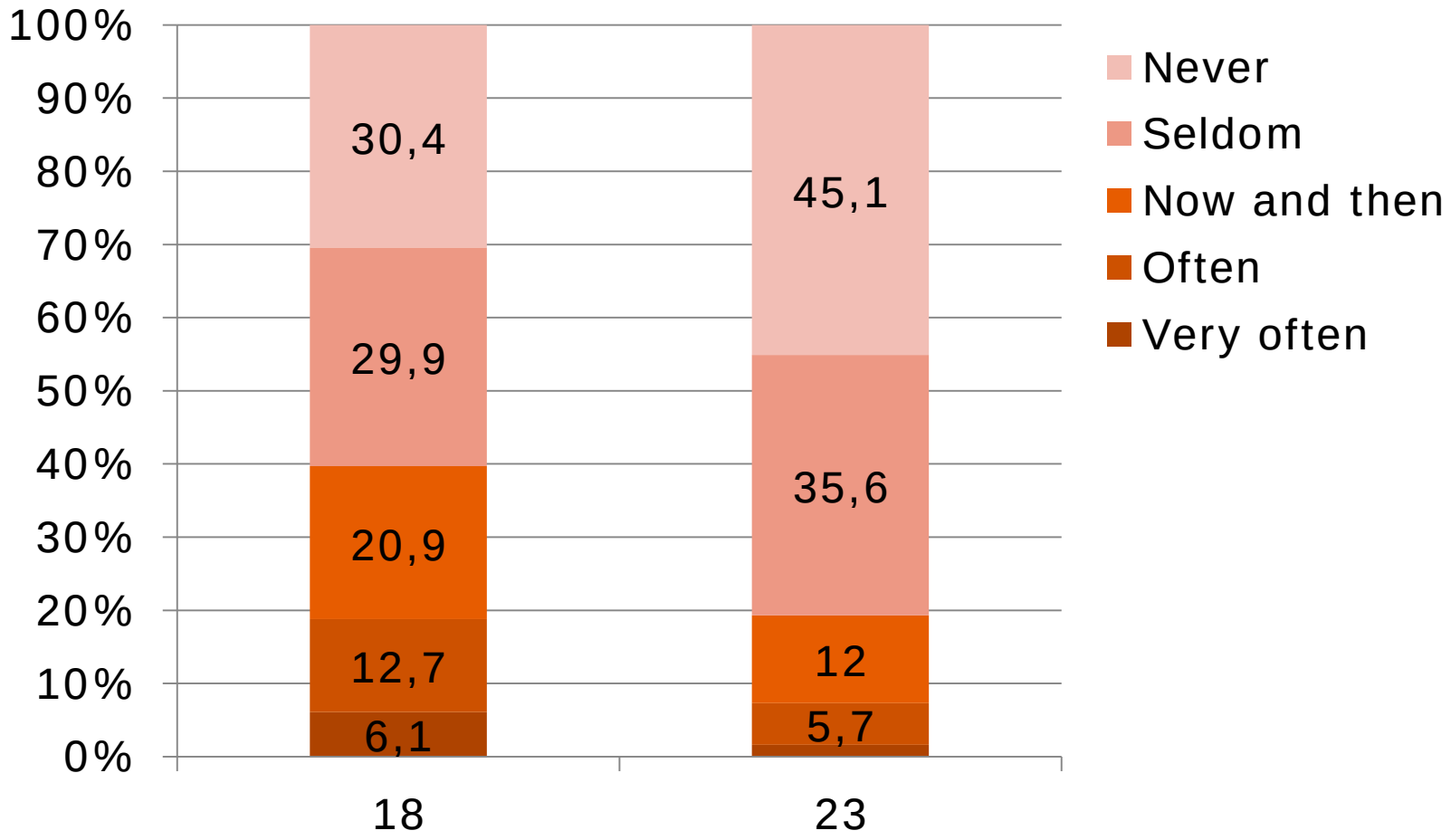
Main research questions

- How does engagement in cruising changes from 18 – 23?
- How do people who keep on cruising differ from those who reduced cruising or never cruised?
- Is it possible to predict who will keep on cruising to identify starting points for preventive measures?

Method

- 379 posted questionnaires completed by same male drivers at the age of 18 and again at the age of 23 (licensed between 6 and 12 month)
- Questionnaire:
  - Car use
  - Driving style
  - Leisure activities
  - Problem behaviour
  - Socio-demographics

Changes in Cruising



Cruising and other leisure activities

- Factor analysis of leisure activities: 7 factors for both survey times
  - 4 factors were comparable: 1) social activities/party; 2) intellectual activities; 3) individual sports; 4) drug use
  - other 3 differed between both points of time
- Cruising at age of 18 loaded highest on the “social activities/party” factor
- Cruising at age of 23 loaded highest on a “rest” factor

➢ With 18 cruising is part of normal social life, with 23 not

Cruiser groups

‘**Non-Cruisers’**: People who did not cruise with friends at either point of time, *n*=87

‘**Former Cruisers**’: People who had cruised at the time of the first survey but reduced it to ‘seldom’ or ‘never’, *n*=149

‘**Cruisers**’: People who still cruised at the same level or even increased their level of cruising, *n*=57

Cruiser groups' demographics

	Non-Cruisers		Former Cruisers		Cruisers		Groups diff.	
	18	23	18	23	18	23	18	23
Place of residence								***
Countryside (%)	40.2	7.0	31.1	14.1	35.7	29.8		
Big city (%)	16.1	72.1	19.6	61.7	19.6	38.6		
Living situation								*
Alone (%)	1.1	20.7	4.8	20.8	1.8	33.3		
With parents (%)	95.4	12.6	92.5	9.4	91.1	21.1		
With partner (%)	0	47.1	2.0	55.0	3.6	38.6		
Education (ongoing or completed)							***	***
Gymnasium (%)	52.1	2.6	28.8	5.9	9.3	2.1		
Technical / Business school (%)	15.1	6.5	52.5	25.7	57.4	45.8		
University (%)	5.5	67.5	0.7	34.6	3.7	20.8		
Occupation								***
In education (%)	70.1	80.2	79.5	47.9	75.4	28.1		
Working (%)	16.1	15.1	15.8	49.3	21.1	68.4		

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Cruiser groups' leisure activities

	Non-Cruisers			Former Cruisers			Cruisers	
	18	23		18	23		18	23
Meet friends	5.00[2]	4.33[3]	***	5.34[1,3]	4.50[3]	***	4.95[2]	5.04[1,2]
Team sports in a club	2.63	2.38		2.66	2.33	*	1.88[2]	1.84
Read books	2.69[2,3]	3.11[3]	*	2.03	2.67[3]	***	1.75[1]	1.98[1,2]
Crusing	1.23[2,3]	1.09[2,3]	*	3.06	1.48[1,3]	***	3.46[1]	3.30[1,2]
Drink alcohol	3.48[2]	3.41[3]		4.15	3.65	***	3.89	3.98[1]

[1] significant difference ($p < .05$) to group of Non-Cruisers
[2] to Former Cruisers
[3] to Cruisers

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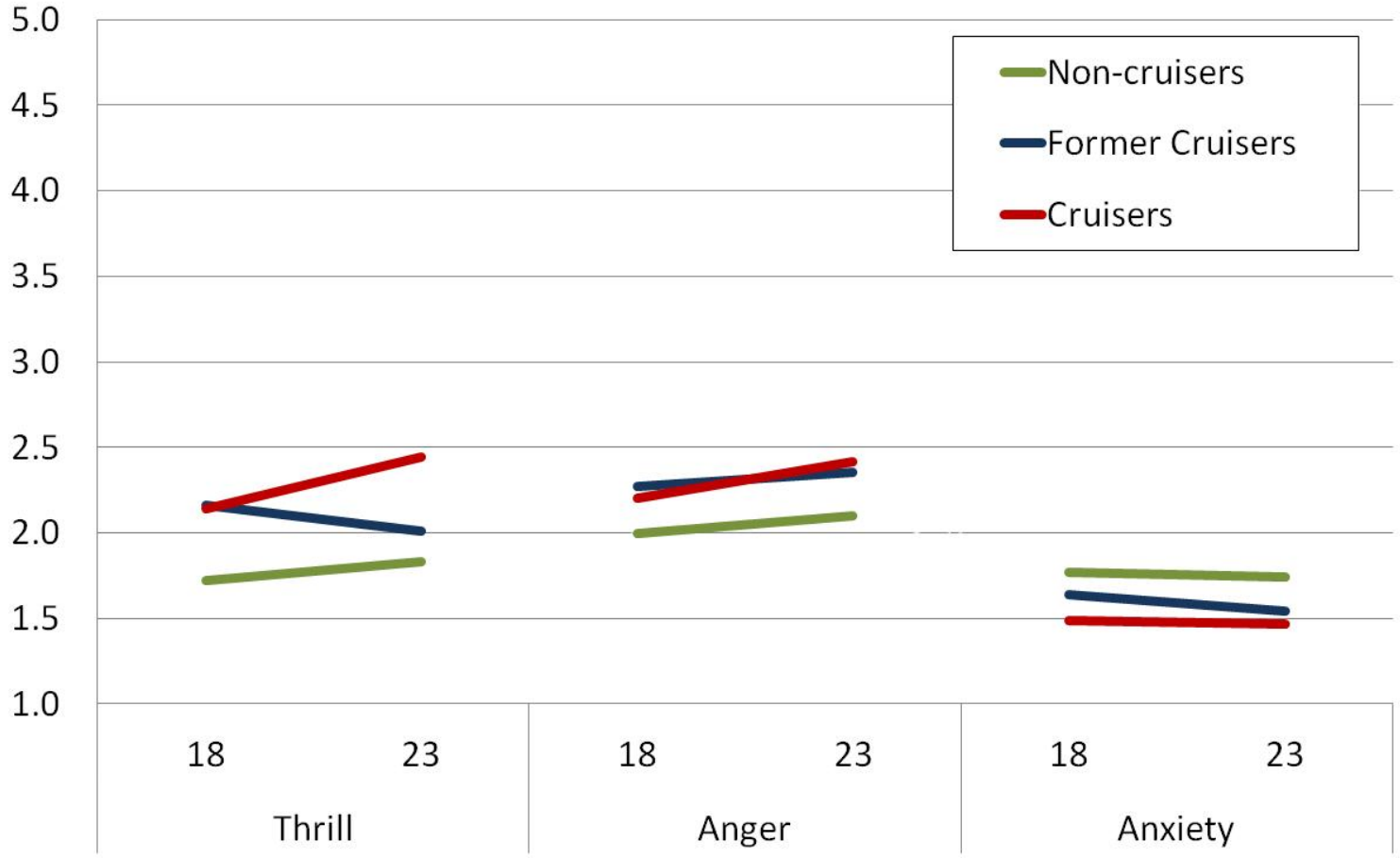
Cruiser groups' driving style



Cruiser groups' problem behaviour

	Non-Cruisers			Former Cruisers			Cruisers		
Variable	18	23		18	23		18	23	
Accident ever (%)	8.0	25.3[3]	**	16.2	34.5	***	16.1	42.1[1]	***
Fine traffic convictions last 6 month (%)	8.0[3]	2.3[2,3]		15.0	8.7[1,3]		17.9[1]	19.3[1,2]	
Fine traffic convictions ever (%)	9.3[2]	25.3[3]	**	17.7[1]	45.6	***	25.0	54.4[1]	***
Drink driving last 12 month (%)	25.3[2]	12.6[3]	*	39.9[1]	20.8[3]	***	38.6	35.1[1,2]	
% "always" safety belt on motorways	100[3]	100[3]		94.0	93.9		87.7[1]	87.7[1]	
… on country lanes	97.7[3]	98.9[2,3]		87.2[1]	87.8[3]		78.9[1]	68.4[1,2]	
Friends' disapproval of..									
drink driving (%)	97.7[2,3]	96.6[3]		88.5[1]	92.6[3]		84.2[1]	78.9[1,2]	
driving w/o. safety belt (%)	35.6	48.3[2,3]		29.7	32.9[1,3]		19.3	19.6[1,2]	

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Predicting to keep on cruising

- Logistic regression analysis: which factors at the age of 18 related to either keep on cruising or have stopped/reduced cruising 5 years later (Nagelkerke's R^2 = .30)
- Only 3 out of 22 predictors were significant:
  - Meeting friends in a sports club (-)***
  - Meeting in a car (+) **
  - Living alone (-) *

  (Non-sign. variables: driving style, problem behaviour, own and friends' interest in cars, other meeting places with friends, other socio-demographic variables)

Importance of life style related motivational factors for driving behaviour among young drivers is confirmed.

Need to identify additional factors predicting differences in cruising and other safety-related driving behaviours at an early age.